

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-08

INFO OCT-01 SS-14 ISO-00 OFA-01 DLOS-03 EB-03 INR-05

CIAE-00 SSO-00 NSC-05 NSCE-00 INRE-00 L-01 IO-03

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O 251500Z SEP 75

FM AMEMBASSY ANKARA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 837

INFO AMEMBASSY ATHENS IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY NICOSIA

USMISSION USUNNIMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L ANKARA 7305

LIMDIS

E.O.11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, GR, TU

SUBJECT: CONTINENTAL SHELF IN THE AEGEAN

1. YUKSEL SOYLEMEZ, DIRECTOR OF INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATION
AFFAIRS MFA, ASKED DCM TO CALL MORNING SEPTEMBER 25.

2. SOYLEMEZ OPENED CONVERSATION BY SAYING THAT HE SHOULD NOT
RPT NOT HAVE BEEN IN ANKARA TODAY, HE SHOULD HAVE BEEN IN
PARIS. HE WAS TO HAVE HEADED GOT DELEGATION FOR TALKS SCHEDULED
FOR SEPTEMBER 25-27 WITH GREEKS THERE ON AEGEAN CONTINENTAL SHELF
PROBLEM. BOTH DELEGATIONS
HAD PLANNED TO HAVE WITH THEM THEIR FOREIGN EXPERTS.
SOYLEMEZ SAID GOT HAD PREPARED EXTENSIVELY FOR THIS MEETING,
INCLUDING PREPARATORY SESSIONS OF TURKISH TEAM TOGETHER WITH
THEIR FOREIGN EXPERTS HELD AT KUSADASI AUGUST 25-30.
SOYLEMEZ SAID THAT EVERYTHING HAD BEEN ARRANGED FOR THE PARIS
MEETINGS. AGREEMENT WITH GREEKS HAD BEEN REACHED ON SUCH
MATTERS AS SITUS OF MEETINGS, SOCIAL EVENTS, ETC.

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3. GOT HAD SUGGESTED TO GREEKS THAT BRIEF JOINT PRESS RELEASE

ANNOUNVPNG PARIS MEETING BE ISSUED AND HAD ASKED FOR GOG SUGGESTIONS. SOYLEMEZ SAID HE HAD GIVEN SOME GENERAL IDEAS AS TO GOT DESIRES TO GREEK AMBASSADOR TO ANKARA COSMADOPOULOS. TURKS HAD PROPOSED THAT RELEASE SHOULD STATE THAT FOLLOWING THE MEETINGS IN ROME AND BRUSSELS BETWEEN THE TWO GOVERNMENTS, THE EXPERTS OF BOTH COUNTRIES WOULD BE MEETING IN PARIS TO DISCUSS PROBLEMS INVOLVED IN THE AEGEAN CONTINENTAL SHELF.

4. ACCORDING TO SOYLEMEZ, COSMADOPOULOS CAME BACK WITH SUGGESTION THAT COMMQFTQUE CONTAIN FOLLOWING LANGUAGE: QTE. PARIS MEETING WILL TAKE PLACE IN ORDER TO DRAFT A JOINT SPECIAL AGREEMENT TO REFER TO THE INTERNATIONAL COURT OF JUSTICE. UNQTE. SOYLEMEZ SAID THIS HAD NOT RPT NOT BEEN GOT UNDERSTANDING. COSMADOPOULOS, HOWEVER, INSISTED THA GOG UNDERSTANDING AFTER ROME AND BRUSSELS MEETINGS (PARTICULARLY LATTER) WAS THAT EXPERTS WOULD MEET IN PARIS "EXCLUSIVELY AND SOLELY" TO DISCUSS SPECIAL AGREEMENT TO BE PREPARED FOR REFERENCE TO THE ICJ. SOYLEMEZ SAID HE HAD REPLIED THAT GOT DID NOT RPT NOT EXCLUDE SPECIAL AGREEMENT AND ASKED WHY THE COMMUNIQUE SHOULD BE RESTRICTED TO THE SPECIAL AGREEMENT ALONE. GOT WAS PREPARED TO DISCUSS THE SPECIAL AGREEMENT IN PARIS, BUT THERE WERE OTHER ISSUES INVOLVED AND REFERENCE TO THE ICJ WAS ONLY ONE PART OF IT. THE GREEK SIDE SAID THAT ANY COMMUNIQUE OTHER THAN THE ONE THEY SUGGESTED WOULD BE MISLEADING TO PUBLIC OPINION.

5. SOYLEMEZ SAID THAT HE TOLD COSMADOPOULOS THAT DEMIREL'S UNDERSTANDING AS A RESULT OF HIS BRUSSELS MEETING WITH KARAMANLIS WAS THAT AGREEMENT HAD BEEN REACHED ON THE PRINCIPLE THAT GREECE AND TURKEY WOULD BE ABLE TO NEGOTIATE THE

ISSUES INVOLVED IN THE AEGEAN CONTINENTAL SHELF AND THAT WHAT COULD NOT BE SOVED BY NEGOTIATIONS WOULD BE REFERRED TO THE ICJ. COSMADOPOULOS SAID THIS WAS NOT KARAMANLIS' UNDERSTANDING OF THE AGREEMENT. THE GREEKS BELIEVED THAT IT HAD BEEN AGREED THAT THE FIRST STEP WOULD BE A JOINT REFERENCE OF THE MATTER TO THE ICJ, AND THAT WHILE THE ICJ WAS DELIBERATING THE GREEK AND TURKISH SIDES WOULD ALSO NEGOTIATE AND THAT IF THEY REACHED ANY AGREEMENTS THEY WOULD INFORM THE ICJ.

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6. IN AN EFFORT TO SAVE THE PARIS MEETING, CONTINUED SOYLEMEZ, THE TURKISH SIDE OFFERED THE GREEKS SEVERAL ALTERNATIVES. ONE WAS TO RAISE THE MEETINGS TO THE SECRETARY GENERAL LEVEL. ANOTHER WAS THAT THE TWO SIDES SHOULD MEET IN PARIS WITHOUT ANY ANNOUNCEMENT ANS SEE WHAT HAPPENED. IN THIS LATTER EVENT, IF THERE WERE A NEWS LEAK AND QUESTIONS WERE PUT TO ATHENS, THE GOG COULD SAY THAT THE CONTINENTAL SHELF WAS DISCUSSED AS WELL AS THE JOINT DRAFT OF THE SPECIAL AGREEMENT FOR THE ICJ. THE

GREEKS HAD TURNED DOWN BOTH THESE ALTERNATIVES AZSZZ
AGREED THAT THE MEETING WOULD HAVE TO BE POSTPONED UNTIL SUCH TIME AS
TURKEY WAS READY TO DISCUSS THE DRAFTING OF THE SPECIAL AGREE-

MENT. SOYLEMEZ SAID THAT THE GREEKS, IN THEIR FINAL REIKY,
TRIED TO IMPLY THAT IT WAS THE GOT THAT WAS ATTEMPTING TO DELAY
THE TALKS.

7. SOYLEMEZ SAID HE HAD TWO PERSONAL POSSIBLE INTERPRETATIONS
OF WHAT THE GREEKS WERE UP TO. THE FIRST WAS THAT THE GOG
WANTED A MEETING BUT ONLY ON ITS OWN NARROW TERMS. THE
SECOND WAS THAT THE GREEK SIDE REALLY DID NOT RPT NOT WANT A
MEETING AT THIS TIME BECAUSE CONSIDERATION OF THE CYPRUS QUES-
TION WOULD BE TAKING PLACE IN THE UNGA, AS WELL AS THE US
CONGRESSIONAL VOTE ON THE EMBARGO, AND THE GREEKS WANTED TO
PORTRAY TURKEY AS INTRANSIGENT AND UNYIELDING. SOYLEMEZ SAID
HE UNERSTOOD THIS LATTER CHARACTERIZATION HAD ALREADY STARTED TO
BE LEAKED BY GREEK SOURCES IN ATHENS.

8. DCM EXPRESSED HOPE THAT GOG AND GOT WOULD FIND EXPEDI-
TIOUS WAY TO RESOLVE THESE DIFFERENCES AND GET TALKS UNDER WAY.

9. JUST AFTER ABOVE MESSAGE WAS DRAFTED, WE RECEIVED ATHENS
INTERESTING 7316 GIVING GOG VERSION OF REASONS FOR POSTPONE-
MENT OF PARIS TALKS.
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